

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraphs [00019]-[00020] with the following:

[00019] Figure 3 illustrates a flow chart of a second aspect of an exemplary process for selecting competitive partners in accordance with the principles of the invention; and

[00019.1] Figure 4 illustrates a flow chart of another aspect of an exemplary process for selecting competitive partners in accordance with the principles of the invention; and

[00020] Figure [[4]] 5 illustrates a system for selecting competitive partners in accordance with the principles of the invention.

Kindly **REPLACE** paragraphs [00058]-[00060] with the following:

[00058] Figure [[4]] 5 illustrates a system [[400]] 500 for implementing the principles of the invention as depicted in the exemplary processing shown herein. In this exemplary system embodiment [[400]] 500, input data is received from sources [[405]] 505 over network [[450]] 550 and is processed in accordance with one or more software programs executed by processing system [[410]] 510. The results of processing system [[410]] 510 may then be transmitted over network [[470]] 570 for viewing on display [[480]] 580, reporting device [[490]] 590 and/or a second processing system [[495]] 595.

[00059] More specifically, processing system 510 includes one or more input/output devices [[440]] 540 that receive data from the illustrated source devices [[405]] 505 over network [[450]] 550. The received data is then applied to processor [[420]] 520, which is in communication with input/output device [[440]] 540 and memory [[430]] 530. Input/output

devices 540, processor 520 and memory 530 may communicate over a communication medium 525. Communication medium 525 may represent a communication network, e.g., ISA, PCI, PCMCIA bus, one or more internal connections of a circuit, circuit card or other device, as well as portions and combinations of these and other communication media. Processor 520 may be representative of a handheld calculator, special purpose or general purpose processing system, desktop computer, laptop computer, palm computer, or personal digital assistant (PDA) device, etc., as well as portions or combinations of these and other devices that can perform the operations illustrated herein.

[00060] In one embodiment, processor 520 may include code which, when executed, performs the operations illustrated herein. The code may be contained in memory 530, read or downloaded from a memory medium such as a CD-ROM or floppy disk represented as 583, or may be read from a magnetic or optical medium (not shown) which is accessible by processor 520, when needed, or provided by manual input device 485, such as a keyboard or a keypad entry. Information items provided by input device 485 and/or magnetic medium 583 may be accessible to processor 520 through input/output device 540, as shown. Further, the data received by input/output device 540 may be immediately accessible by processor 520 or may be stored in memory 530. Processor 520 may further provide the results of the processing shown herein to display 580, recording device 590 or a second processing unit 595 through I/O device 540.

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached sheets of drawings include Figure 4, which corresponds to the description of the flow chart described in paragraph [0052] of the originally filed written description, and Figure 5, which depicts the system for executing the processing described in the written description. The correct Figure 4 was omitted from the initially filed application and Figure 5 was inadvertently labeled as Figure 4.

**REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment is made to correct errors in the specification with regard to the omission of a figure and incorrect identification of the filed figures. More specifically, the correct Figure 4 was omitted from the initial filing and the figure filed as Figure 4 was incorrectly identified. Paragraphs [00058]-[00060] describe the processing shown in the incorrectly filed figure 4 and refer to reference numbers that do not correspond to those in the figure.

Applicant has included the correct drawing for Figure 4 and has amended filed Figure 4 to now be read as Figure 5. Applicant has also amended paragraphs [00019]-[00020] of the specification to properly describe the figures of the application and paragraphs [00058]-[00060] to correspond to the reference numbers in the figure now labeled Figure 5, i.e., initially filed Figure 4.

Support for this amendment may be found in:

a. paragraph [00052] of the written description, wherein "Figure 4 is referred to as a flow chart describing processing in one aspect of the invention." The description of the processing contained in the flow chart is sufficient for one to appreciate, understand and formulate the flow chart referred to as Figure 4, which is attached hereto;

b. paragraph [00062] which states that "the operation illustrated in Figure 5 may be performed sequentially or in parallel using different processors to determine specific values." One would understand that the reference to "different processors" would be that of processor 410; now labeled 510; and

c. claim 38 which claims a method described in paragraph [00052] as:

38. A method for determining competitive partners from among a plurality of participants in a selected one of a plurality of rounds in a competitive event wherein at least one of said participants has an associated ranking, said method comprising the steps of:

organizing at least one of said participants into a first group and remaining ones of said participants into a second group;

selecting, within said second group in accordance with said associated ranking, one of said participants, allowing said selected participant to select one of said other participants; and

removing said selected participant and selected other participant from further consideration for said selected round.

Applicant submits that the correction of the figures and amendments to the specification introduce no new matter into the written description and are entitled to the filing date of August 4, 2003.

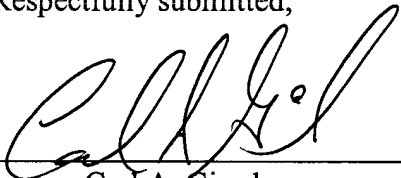
"The written description requirement and its corollary, the new matter prohibition of 35 U.S.C. §132, both serve to ensure that the patent applicant was in full possession of the claimed subject matter on the application filing date. When the applicant adds a claim or otherwise amends its specification after the original filing date ... the new claims or other added material must find support in the original specification." *TurboCare Division v. General Electric Co.* 60 USPQ2d 1017, 1022 (Fed. Cir. 2001) (quoting *Schering Corp. v. Amgen, Inc.* 222 F.3d 1347, 1352, 55 USPQ2d 1650, 1653 (Fed. Cir. 2000)).

Applicant submits that he was in full possession of the claimed subject matter by virtue of the support found in the specification and in the claims, as noted herein. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested prior to examination.

Should there be any questions or other matters whose resolution may be advanced by a telephone call, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below. No fee is believed necessary for filing this amendment. However, if one should be necessary, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. **50-2061**.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 9/3/03

  
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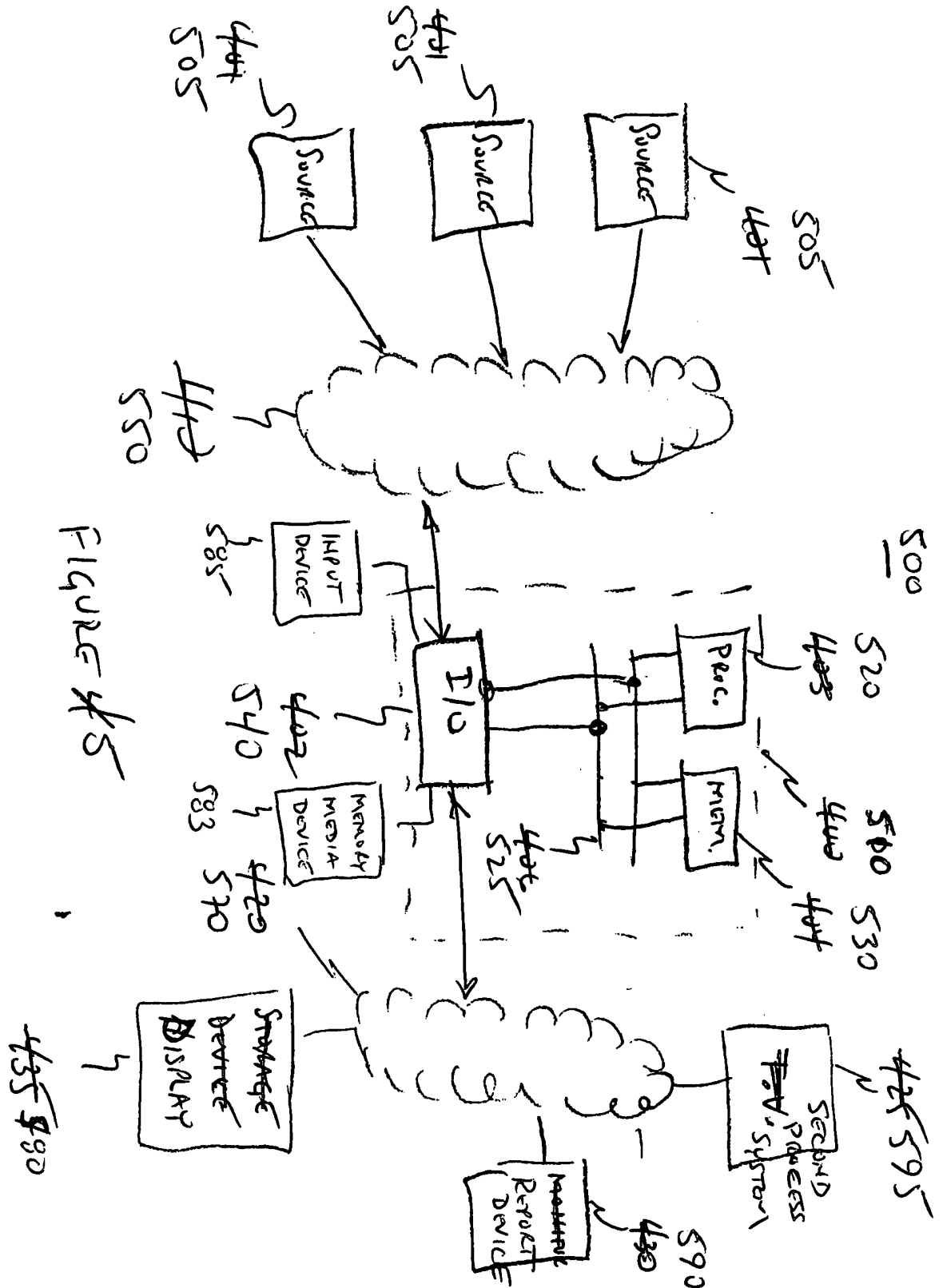


FIGURE 45

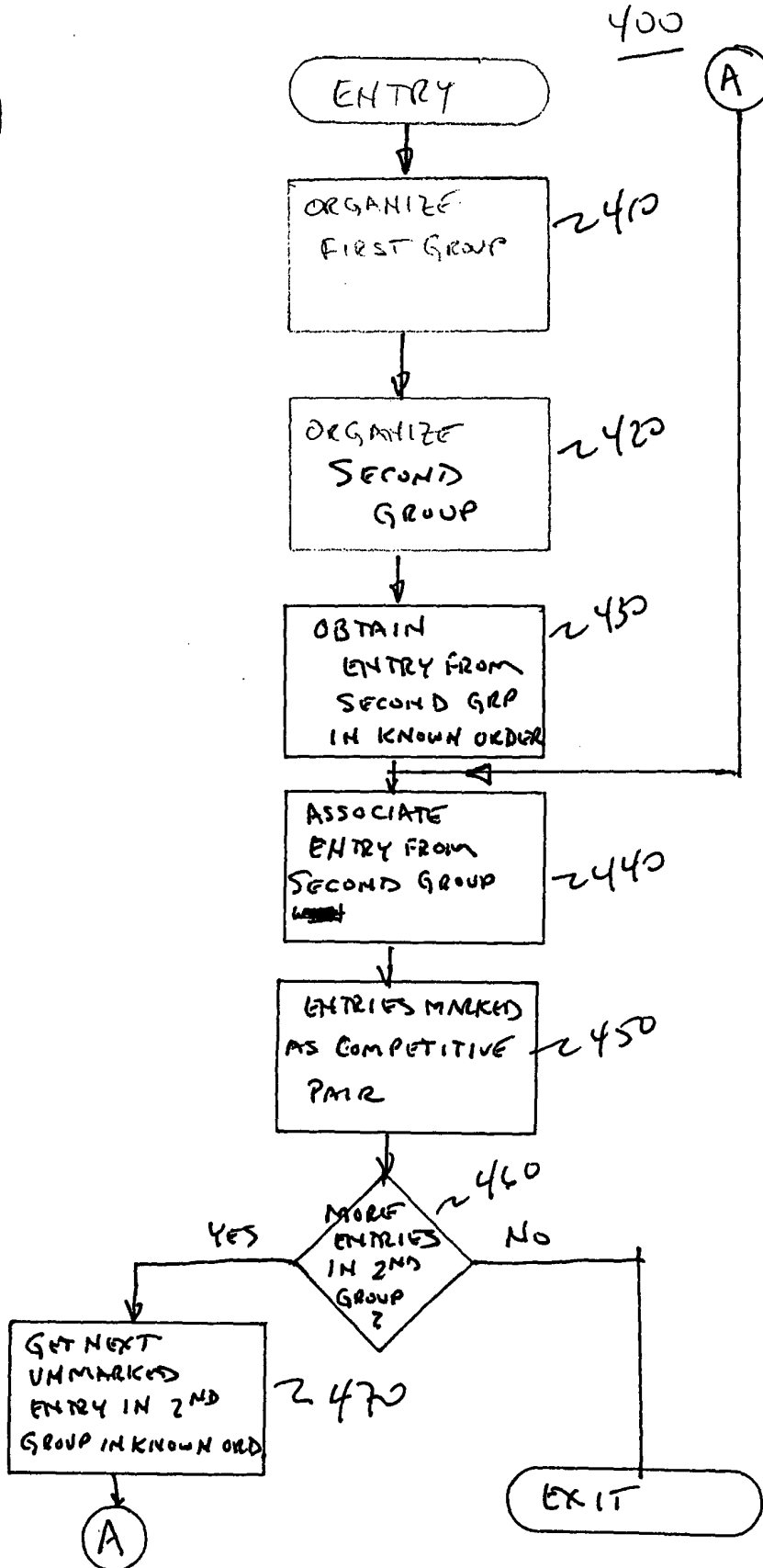
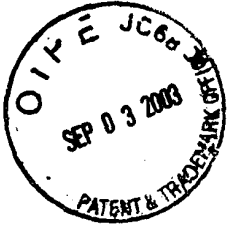


FIGURE 4